REMARKS

The present application was originally filed with 28 Claims. In a Preliminary Amendment mailed July 17, 2001, Claims 2, 3, and 14-28 were cancelled without prejudice and Claims 29 and 30 were added. Thus, Claims 1, 4-13, 29 and 30 were pending. In a Restriction Requirement dated September 27, 2002, the Examiner restricted the Claims into two Groups, with Claims 1, 4-10 and 29-30 in Group I, and Claims 11-13 in Group II. In a Response filed on October 9, 2002, Applicants elected the Claims in Group I with traverse, and cancelled Claims 11-13. Thus, Claims 1, 4-10 and 29-30 were pending in the present application. In a Response to an Office Action mailed June 13, 2003, Applicants amended Claim 1 and cancelled Claims 9, 10, 29, and 30, without prejudice. In the present Response. Applicants have cancelled Claims 4, 6, and 8, and amended Claims 1 and 31. New Claims 32-39 have been added. Support for these new Claims is found throughout the Specification as filed. No new matter is added in these new Claims. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the originally filed, similar and/or broader claims in one more subsequently filed applications.

Applicants note that the Examiner argues that the Declaration of Fiona Harding is improper, as both inventors did not sign the Declaration. Although Applicants could submit a new Declaration, Applicants believe that the present amendments and remarks will overcome the present rejections without such Declaration support.

Applicants note that the Examiner has only objected to Claims 6 and 8, and there are no rejections pending against these Claims. Thus, Applicants have cancelled Claims 4 and 6 without prejudice. The recitation of Claim 6 has been added to Claim 1. Thus, Applicants submit that as there is no rejection against Claim 6, amended Claim 1, as well as dependent Claims 5 and 7 are allowable.

In addition, Applicants have cancelled Claim 8. The recitation of Claim 8 has been combined with that of previously pending Claim 1, to create new Claim 34. Thus, Applicants submit that as there is no rejection against Claim 8, new Claim 34, as well as dependent Claims 35 and 36 are allowable.

Furthermore, Applicants have amended Claim 31 to include the recitation of Claim 6. Thus, Applicants submit that as there is no rejection against Claim 6, amended Claim 31, as well as dependent Claims 32 and 33 are allowable.

Finally, Applicants have added new Claim 37, which combines the recitation of previously pending Claim 31, with the recitation of Claim 8. Thus, Applicants submit that as there is no rejection against Claim 8, new Claim 37, as well as dependent Claims 38 and 39 are allowable.

As the Examiner has made NO rejections against Claims 6 and 8, Applicants respectfully submit that the currently pending Claims are allowable. Indeed, in regards to the newly added Claims 32-39, Applicants respectfully submit that the references cited by the Examiner (*i.e.*, Landry *et al.* [WO 99/06061; Lipford *et al.* (Immunol., 84:298 [1995]; Graziano *et al.* (J. Immunol., 149:556 [1992]); and Russell-Jones *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,500,366)), do not teach nor suggest, alone or in combination, the presently claimed invention.

Furthermore, in regards to Claims 1, 5, 7, 31, 32, and 33, there is no teaching in any of these references of any polypeptide variant that is an enzyme selected from the group consisting of lipase, cellulase, endo-glucosidase H, protease, carbohydrases, reductase, oxidase, isomerase, transferase, kinase and phosphatase. Thus, these references do not teach nor even remotely suggest the presently claimed invention.

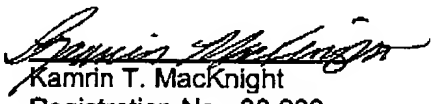
In regards to Claims 34-39, there is no teaching in any of these references of polypeptide variants with at least one T-cell epitope altered by having a terminal portion of the polypeptide comprising said T-cell epitope replaced with a corresponding terminal portion of a homolog of a polypeptide of interest wherein the homolog does not comprise a T-cell epitope identical to the replaced T-cell epitope. Thus, these references do not teach nor even remotely suggest the presently claimed invention. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the present Claims be passed to allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, the Applicants believe the pending claims are in condition for allowance and issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (650) 846-5838.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 22, 2003



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